

REMARKS

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action Applicant's election of claims 19-30 is acknowledged. Applicant confirms the election.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action (20, 26, 22 and 29) are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite, stating:

“Claims 20 and 26 recite the limitation “said metallic component” in line 1; and claims 23 and 29 recite the limitation “said yoke” in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.”

Responsive hereto Applicant has amended these claims to resolve the indefiniteness problem. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that this ground of rejection has been satisfied.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action claims 19-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cohen et al (US 5,995,342), stating:

“Claims 19 and 25, Cohen et al shows a thin film device in Figs. 1A and 2 including: at least one thin film layer 16; at least one component 32A; the component being formed with an overplated head (the whole portion above 16) that includes overhang portions 28; hard baked photoresist 40 (Column 18, lines 40-49) being disposed beneath the overhang portions to fill an area beneath the overhang portions 28.

Claim 25, Cohen further shows the thin film device is inherently used to an hard disk drive (Column 1, lines 12-47), including: at least one hard disk being adapted for rotary motion upon a drive device; at least one slider device having a slider body portion being adapted to fly over the hard disk; a magnetic head being formed on slider body for writing data on the hard disk.

Claims 20 and 26, Cohen et al further shows that the component 32A is formed into' an opening formed in a photoresist layer (Column 13, lines 3-6).

Claims 21 and 27, Cohen et al further shows that the device is a thin film magnetic head.

Claims 24 and 30, Cohen et al further shows in Fig. 3(a) that the component 32A is an electrical interconnecting stud.

Claims 22/19 and 28/25 Cohen et al shows a thin film device in Figs. 1A and 2 including: at least one thin film layer 16; at least one component 20; the component being formed with an overplated head (the whole portion above 16) that includes overhang portions 28; hard baked photoresist 40 (Column 18, lines

40-49) being disposed beneath the overhang portions to fill an area beneath the overhang portions 28; the component 20 is a yoke portion of a magnetic pole.

Claims 23 and 29, Cohen further shows in Fig. 1A that the yoke 20+28 is formed with straight sided pole tip portions 22 and 30 and overplated yoke portions 28 and 26.”

Applicant respectfully traverses this ground of rejection and asserts that the claims include limitations that are not taught by the cited prior art.

Regarding independent claims 19 and 26, each recites the limitations of:

“at least one electrochemically plated component; said component being formed with an overplated head that includes overhang portions;
hard baked photoresist being disposed beneath said overhang portions to fill an area beneath said overhang portions.”

These limitations therefore define a said component having an overplated head that includes overhang portions having hard baked photoresist filling an area beneath the overhang portion. One such component is depicted in Fig. 9 of the application and described in page 7, line 24 - page 8, line 2 as:

“As depicted in Fig. 9, owing to the straight, line of sight directional nature of the RIE process, portions 76 of the hard baked photoresist remain beneath the undersurface 40 of the overhanging portion 42 of the mushroom head 38.”

Thus, with reference to the example of a component depicted in Fig. 9, independent claims 19 and 25 require a component that has an overplated head 38 that includes overhang portions 42 with hard baked photoresist disposed beneath the overhang portions 42. Also, with particular regard to a magnetic pole yoke, Figs. 21 and 22 depict a yoke 160 having an overplated head that includes overhang portions 164 with hard baked resist 178 disposed to fill the area beneath the overhang. As is next described, Cohen ‘342 fails to teach any such component.

Particularly, within the first paragraph of the above quoted Office Action rejection, component 32A is identified as satisfying the limitation that it has an overplated head. However, component 32A is identified as an induction coil portion, see column 11, lines 55-56. This component 32A is not depicted or described in Cohen ‘342 as having an overplated head, rather, as depicted in Fig. 2, this component 32A has a flat upper surface upon which an insulative layer 19 is disposed. Furthermore, component 32A has no overhang portions. Therefore component 32A of the prior art does not teach the limitations set forth in independent claims 19 and 25.

The closing phrase of the first paragraph of the rejection may be interpreted as indicating that component 28 of Cohen '342 is such a component as would satisfy the limitations set forth above in claims 19 and 25. Component 28 is identified in col. 11, line 55 as a yoke arm. However there is no teaching or discussion in Cohen '342 that component 28 is fabricated with an overplated head, nor that it includes overhang portions.

In the sixth paragraph above quoted rejection component 20 is asserted to satisfy the limitations set forth in independent claims 19 and 25. However, component 20 is identified as a yoke arm, see col. 9, line 53, and there is no depiction or teaching in Cohen '342 that component 20 is formed with an overplated head, nor that it includes overhang portions, nor that any overhang portions are filled with hard baked resist.

Applicant has thoroughly reviewed Cohen '342 and examined each of the components thereof and the description of the components. There is no depiction or teaching in Cohen '342 of any component that has an overplated head which includes overhang portions, and furthermore there is no depiction or teaching of such a component having hard baked photoresist disposed beneath such overhang portions. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that independent claims 19 and 25 are allowable in that they recite limitations not taught in the cited prior art.

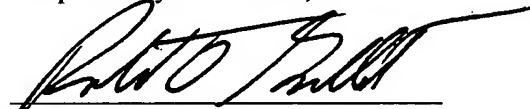
With regard to dependent claims 20-24 and 26-30 Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable in that they depend, either directly or indirectly from an allowable base claim.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action the Examiner notes that some or all of the claims recite some process related limitations. While Applicant agrees that this is true, the limitations relied upon in distinguishing the prior art are structural limitations and, as argued hereabove, the cited prior art fails to teach such limitations.

Lastly, Applicant notes that the existing abstract is excessively lengthy, and an Amended Abstract is submitted herewith.

Having responded to all of the paragraphs of the Office Action, and having amended the claims accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be forthcoming at the Examiner's earliest opportunity. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments with regard to this amendment, a telephonic conference at the number set forth below is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited on June 16, 2005 with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date: June 16, 2005


Patricia Beilmann